

Argyle Lake State Park

2016 Winter/Spring Interpretive Program Schedule

Cross-Country Skiing Programs -

Dates To Be Announced

(based on appropriate snow accumulation)

There is no better way to enjoy the magnificent scenery of winter than to spend an afternoon cross-country skiing through it! Skiers of any ability level will have the opportunity to learn how to ski or refresh their skills. The dates and times for these programs will be determined once appropriate snowfall has accumulated and weather conditions are favorable. Cross-country skis will be available for participants that do not have their own skis to use during the programs. The skis and boots are of various sizes, therefore we need participants to pre-register and give us their shoe sizes. The workshop will begin and conclude at the park visitor center. For more information or to be put on a contact list for the programs, please email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov or call the park office at (309)776-3422.

Winter Birding Basics -

Saturday, January 9, 2016 &

Saturday, January 23, 2016

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Join the park naturalist for an afternoon of birdwatching at the Argyle Lake State Park visitor center. Winter is the perfect time to learn the basics of bird identification before the numerous migratory birds return in the spring. These programs will begin in the visitor center with a discussion of the 7 S's of bird identification, which will be followed by observing birds outside at the feeders and nearby shrubs. Binoculars will be available or you are welcome to bring your own. For more information, please call the park visitor center at (309)776-3422.

Twigs, Buds and Bark:

Winter Tree ID Hike -

Saturday, February 13, 2016 -

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Most people identify trees using their leaves, which makes tree identification a challenge in the winter. Winter tree identification is possible; it merely requires detailed observations of a tree's many unique characteristics - other than its leaves. Budding naturalists of any age are welcome to come and learn some tips for identifying trees in winter at the Argyle Lake State Park visitor center. After a brief indoor discussion, participants will venture outdoors to practice their skills in the campground and along the woodland edge at Argyle while enjoying the winter scenery. For more information, please call the park visitor center at (309)776-3422.

19th Annual Maple Syrup Festival

10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. &

Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast

7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. -

Saturday, March 5, 2016 -

On Saturday, March 5th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. the 19th annual Maple Syrup Festival will be held at Argyle Lake State Park. Individuals attending the festival will experience the tapping of the maple trees, collection of the sap, boiling down of sap into syrup, and a taste of the finished product. Tours to collect sap at the maple grove will depart regularly and several children's activities will be ongoing throughout the day. This event is being sponsored through the cooperative efforts of the Friends of Argyle Lake State Park and park staff. The Colchester Lion's Club will be hosting a pancake breakfast at 207 S. Fulton St. in

Colchester from 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in conjunction with this event. Free refreshments will be provided by Macomb Morning Rotary and Friends of Argyle will have maple syrup for sale at the event. For more information, please call the park visitor center at (309) 776-3422.

'First Day of Spring' Hike -

Saturday, March 19, 2016 - 1:30 p.m.

Celebrate the first day of spring by taking a hike in the woods of Argyle. Hikers will witness nature's rebirth firsthand by enjoying the early blooms and signs of emerging wildlife. This 1-2 mile hike will begin at the visitor center. For more information, please call the park visitor center at (309)776-3422.

Spring Wildflower Hikes -

Saturdays, April 9 & 23, 2016 - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 7 & 21, 2016 - 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy the first blooms of spring and the peace and serenity of nature on these afternoon nature hikes in the woods of Argyle. These 1-2 mile hikes will begin at the park visitor center. For more information, please call the park visitor center at (309)776-3422.

**Friends of Argyle Lake State Park -
Spring Exotic Plant Removal Workday**

Saturday, May 28, 2016

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Come and spend a few hours outdoors helping the Friends of Argyle and park staff remove nonnative plants from the woods at Argyle. Litter collecting is an option for younger volunteers. Tools and gloves will be provided or bring your own. Meet at the park visitor center. For more information, call the park visitor center at (309)776-3422.

General Program Information:

- Meet at the park visitor center for all hikes and programs unless otherwise indicated in above program descriptions.
- All programs are free and open to the general public. Beginning January 2016, any program involving the use of FOA equipment (skis, kayaks, paddleboards, etc.) will require participants to become a member of the Friends of Argyle organization. Annual membership fees are \$10 per individual, \$15 for a single parent family and \$20 for a two parent family.
- Please contact park staff with any special needs or concerns prior to the program date, so requested arrangements /accommodations can be made.
- For more specific program information or to register for a program, please call the park visitor center at (309)776-3422 or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov.